

May 1, 2003

Congressman Akin's Statement on President Bush's Announcement of the Cessation of Major Combat Operations in Iraq

Washington- In a speech to be given today from the deck of the USS Abraham Lincoln, President Bush will announce that major combat operations in Iraq have ended. The following is Congressman Todd Akin's (R-MO) statement:

"Tonight's speech by President Bush from the deck of an aircraft carrier is truly historic and is in a setting that honors the men and women of the U.S. military. It is their courage and willingness to serve that has liberated the people of Iraq.

"The skill and capability with which the U.S. military carried out the operations in Iraq epitomizes not only the unparalleled power of the U.S. but our compassion and desire to minimize the loss of innocent lives.

"Although there remains dangerous work yet left to do, the destruction of Iraq's dictator and his insufferable regime has liberated an oppressed nation and is a significant victory in the war against terrorism.

"President Bush has exercised tremendous leadership in confronting a brutal dictator, and history will record that it was the courage of our fighting men and women that carried the light of freedom to Iraq."